

were unable to attend. Why? Because of age or infirmity, or other reasons. Indeed, at 10 minutes before 1 o'clock on July 4, 1826, Thomas Jefferson, principal drafter of the Declaration, passed away.

John Adams, too, breathed his last on the same day. In his 90s and gravely ill, he had determined to hold on until the 50th anniversary of independence. That morning, he roused long enough to confirm to a servant that he knew that "it is the glorious Fourth of July. God bless it. God bless you all," before fading into unconsciousness. Rousing later that afternoon, he confided unknowingly as he passed on to that other shore that "Thomas Jefferson still survives." He did not know that Jefferson had died earlier that day.

James Monroe, who fought in the Revolutionary War and became the fifth President of the United States, also died on July 4, in 1831. James Madison, the fourth President, died a week short of the 60th anniversary of Independence Day, on June 28, 1836.

The last living Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll, performed one of his last public acts on July 2, 1828. He participated in a ground breaking ceremony initiating construction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway, the first important railroad in the Nation. He died in 1832, at the age of 95. Also in 1828, President John Quincy Adams led an unusual 4th of July parade, up the Potomac River and the old Washington Canal to the site where construction was to start on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. These two acts underscore the vital link between the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution which followed it, and the vibrant economy which has made and kept the United States economy vibrant and strong for so many years.

Our Nation is a union of disparate States, each of which has considerable power within its boundaries. But across those boundaries, linking the Union into a seamless web of bustling commerce and economic might, is the national infrastructure. Just as the Constitution provides for the common defense, so it promotes the common good by linking markets and people across States. Over the Years, Federal support for great infrastructure projects, from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to the National Highway System, have woven the Nation into a unified economic structure. Federal support for rural electrification and rural telephone and Internet access have spread opportunity and progress from border to border and coast to coast, just as John Adams foretold in 1776.

This 4th of July, as we all visit national parks, tour Federal monuments, drive on interstate highways, call friends and family around the country, and buy picnic goods grown all over the United States—as we celebrate a national Federal holiday under the protective watch of the U.S. military and Federal law enforcement agencies—we unconsciously enjoy the benefits of the

Federal Government and of belonging to a union that is the United States.

Each star on the flag, the flag beside the Presiding Officer's desk, we salute so proudly represents a single state, but only when they are aligned together in the constellation of 50 do we feel the strength and the glory that were won for us, beginning on July 4, 1776. This Independence Day, we would all do well to read and cherish the Declaration of Independence. Even more, we would do well as a Nation to study and cherish our Constitution, by which our freedom, so dearly won and so cost-ly held, lives on.

Too often in recent years and months have I seen unwise attempts to erode the checks and balances of the Constitution, unknowing or unthinking efforts to dissolve the institutions and practices established to make our Nation the free and representative government by our Founding Fathers. Attacks on the United States from without are met with instant, unhesitating defense by all Americans, but we are not so knowledgeable vigilant against the insidious weakening from within, even within this Chamber. We are all of us, with our voices and our votes, the last, best guardians of American freedom and independence. We lack only the weapons of knowledge and awareness.

I close with a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, entitled "O Ship of State."

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!
We know what Master laid thy keel!
What Workmen wrought thy ribs of steel,
Who made each mast, and sail, and rope,
What anvils rang, what hammers beat,
In what a forge and what a heat
Were shaped the anchors of thy hope!
Fear not each sudden sound and shock,
'Tis of the wave and not the rock;
'Tis but the flapping of the sail,
And not a rent made by the gale!
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee.
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee—are all with thee!

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THANKING SENATOR BYRD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish that I were able to express myself in a manner that is worthy of my feelings about the Senator from West Virginia. I can't do that, but I can do the best I can.

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't recognize personally how fortu-

nate I am to live in this country and to represent the sovereign State of Nevada and to be a Member of the Senate. It is a blessing that I have had, for whatever reasons. Whether I am worthy or not, that is for someone else to determine. But one of the most important aspects of my life has been my association, my friendship, my service with the Senator from West Virginia, a man who served in the Congress for more than 50 years, who, like clockwork, comes to the Senate floor on special occasions like the Fourth of July or Thanksgiving, and makes us all feel better for having had the opportunity to listen to a speech by the Senator from West Virginia.

As I look back over the time I spent here on the Senate floor, listening to the Senator from West Virginia, I am drawn to a number of things I will never forget. I remember the speeches—and I sat with every one of them. I missed a couple of them, but I watched them in my office—the speeches on the fall of the Roman Empire that were based on the line-item veto. The Senator from West Virginia was indicating the line-item veto would be the beginning of the end of the Senate.

The Senator delivered those speeches without a note. I didn't realize at the time, but the Senator knew every word he intended to say. They were not extemporaneous in the sense I would give an extemporaneous speech. He knew before he gave the speech, beforehand, every word he was going to deliver.

I was so impressed with that series of speeches that I sent them to the head of the political science then at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Andrew Tuttle. Tuttle was so impressed—I sent him the speeches so he could watch them—he started a course at UNLV based on the lectures of Senator BYRD.

I am not going to go on, other than to say our country is so much better as a result of the service granted by the people of West Virginia to the Senator from West Virginia. People may not always agree with the Senator from West Virginia, but no one can take away the fact he is the epitome of the Senate. And when the history books are written—and they will be written—there will be a place where they will list the great Senators of this body, and in the top two or three will be the Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank my dear friend, the distinguished Senator from Nevada, who is also the Democratic whip here in the Senate.

Tennyson in Ulysses says:

I am a part of all that I have met.

Mr. President, I don't know how long the great God of the universe will spare me. But however long it may be, the distinguished Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID, will always be a part of me.

HONORING SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to take a minute to say a few words in